



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294  
(323) 881-2401

DARYL L. OSBY  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

May 1, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS THAT EXCEED  
THE \$100,000 PURCHASE LIMIT TO MULTIPLE MOBILE DATA SYSTEM INSTALLATION  
VENDORS THROUGH THE REQUEST FOR BID PROCESS  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

### SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting approval to authorize the purchasing agent to bid and award contracts exceeding the \$100,000 Sundry Services threshold for the installation of mobile data computers in 900 District fire apparatus as part of the District's Mobile Data Systems (MDS) Project.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to award purchase orders not to exceed \$600,000 (combined) to multiple installation vendors for the District's Mobile Data Systems Project. Each vendor's individual purchase order will exceed the Purchasing authority of \$100,000 for services.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
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DIAMOND BAR  
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GARDENA  
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PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMEAD  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

### **PURPOSE / JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of this recommended action is to enable the District to obtain installation services from multiple vendors for the purpose of installing mobile data computers (MDCs) in 900 emergency response vehicles/apparatus. The installation of MDCs is part of the mission-critical MDS Project. The scope and the timing of the installation will require more than one vendor to complete the services. The multiple vendors will be determined through the Request for Bid (RFB) process.

The County Purchasing Agent, who administers the purchase order process, has specific statutory limitations pertaining to service contracting and the authority to contract for services beyond a specific dollar threshold rests with your Honorable Board. The identified MDS Project installation services exceed the established ceiling amount authorized by statute and require Board approval.

An informal canvassing of the industry that provides this type of service indicates the cost per vendor will exceed the County Purchasing Agent statutory limitations for Sundry Services. The total cost for the installation services will not exceed \$600,000.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) narrow banding mandate which goes into effect on January 1, 2013 is the catalyst for the MDS Project, which includes the installation of the 900 mobile data computers. The mobile data computers will replace the existing mobile data terminals which are not compliant with the FCC narrow banding mandate. First responders rely on radio communications when providing emergency services to the public. Installation of mobile data computers to replace the mobile data terminals is essential for effective radio communication. If the District does not replace the existing mobile data terminals with newer technology mobile data computers then the emergency services provided to the public will be adversely and severely impacted.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Goal #1, Operational Effectiveness, and Goal #5, Public Safety, by increasing the safety and security of all residents in Los Angeles County through the comprehensive integration of public safety information systems in a cost-effective manner.

The MDS Project is part of the District's Public Safety Radio Interoperability initiative and is included in the District's Business Automation Plan for FY 11-12 and FY 12-13.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

On May 9, 2006, your Board approved the transfer of \$26 million from the District's Designation for Budgetary Uncertainties to the District's Designation for Infrastructure Growth to replace the District's voice and data emergency communications systems. This action secured a funding source for the District to replace and upgrade portable and mobile radios, system infrastructure maintenance, radio coverage improvements, equipment installation and training, mobile data system improvements, and cost over-run contingency funding.

On January 18, 2011, your Board approved the Appropriation Adjustment of \$10 million from the District's Designation for Infrastructure Growth to the District's Special Services budget unit to fund upgrading essential communication systems infrastructure for the MDS Project. The purchase of the MDS equipment is underway and as the computers are acquired they will be ready for installation.

The funding for the MDS Project is available in the District's Fiscal Year 2011-2012, Special Services Budget Unit.

There is no impact on net County cost.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS / LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The recommended action has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office.

The County Purchasing Agent has a statutory limitation of \$100,000 for Sundry Service. The scope of the MDS Project and the timing requires more than one vendor to complete the installation services. Therefore, your Board's approval is necessary to obtain the professional installation services that exceed \$100,000 threshold to accomplish this project.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The purchase of these services will be requisitioned through, and accomplished by the Purchasing Agent in accordance with the County's purchasing and contracting policies and procedures. The District anticipates the installation to be completed by December 2012.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended action will expand the District's interoperability and provide the first responders with safe and effective emergency communication system which will contribute to the quality of public safety service provided to the residents of Los Angeles County.


The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
May 1, 2012  
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**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please return a copy of the adopted letter to the following office:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County  
Executive Office – Business Operations  
1320 North Eastern Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90063  
Attention: Acting Chief Deputy Ronald D. Watson  
[RWatson@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:RWatson@fire.lacounty.gov)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daryl L. Osby", followed by the word "burn" in a smaller, less legible script.

DARYL L. OSBY, FIRE CHIEF

DLO:pa

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Internal Services Department